

Appl. No. 10/629,926
Amdt. dated 10/19/06
Reply to Office action of 7/20/06

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-10 and 13-24 are now in the application and are subject to examination. Claims 1, 13 and 15-18 have been amended. Claims 11 and 12 have been canceled. No claims have been added.

In "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102" on pages 2-4 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-11, 15-17 and 19-24 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,497,720 to Augustine et al. (hereinafter Augustine) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103" on page 4 of the Office Action, claim 3 has been rejected as being obvious over Augustine under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's statement in "Allowable Subject Matter" on page 4 of the Office Action, that claims 12-14 and 18 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

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The rejections have been noted and claim 1 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

Support for the change is found in original claims 11 and 12 of the instant application.

Since the subject matter of allowable claim 12 has been added to claim 1, claim 1 is believed to be allowable. The dependent claims are now all ultimately dependent on claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-10 and 13-24 are solicited.

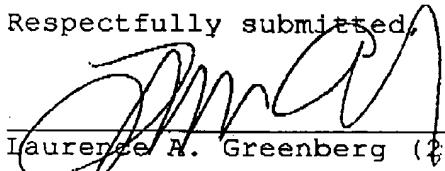
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith should be charged to Deposit Account Number 12-1099 of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP.

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Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account Number 12-1099
of Lerner Greenberg Steiner LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



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LAG/lq

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